



AGENDA ITEM: 11

**CORPORATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
18 February 2016**

Report of: Interim Borough Solicitor

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SUBJECT: WORK PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an update of the current position of the Work Programme of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the way forward for 2016/17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That progress against the Work Programme of the Committee for 2015/16 be noted.

2.3 That, if determined, that the work in relation to the in-depth review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' be concluded, that arrangements be put in place for the draft final report and recommendations to be brought forward for consideration by the Committee at the first meeting for 2016/17.

2.3 That the Work Programme 2016/17 for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered at the first meeting of the Committee 2016/17.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The current Work Programme for Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee and included on the Council's web site is:

'Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee conducts in depth reviews/policy development as set out in its work programme.

In 2015/16 the Committee will be continue its review on 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk Town Centre.'

The Committee considers as part of its routine work:

- Items referred from "Members Update" at the request of a Member
- Members items/Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)
- Performance management
- Acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee
- Recommendations from previously conducted reviews

The Member Development Commission will continue its work during 2015/16 and the 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group' will commence its work.'

3.2 The Corporate and Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee establishes its own Work Programme annually. In relation to that Work Programme it was previously agreed that future work programmes would be informed:

- By inviting all Members and DSH to submit topics.
- By inviting members of the public to submit topics via a press release and the inclusion of an article on the Council's web site.
- And if appropriate, via a workshop session to which all Members be invited, including Key Stakeholders, the Press and members of the public, if determined by the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson.

Potential topics to be considered by the Committee for inclusion in its Work Programme shall be included on the Council's web site with a request that any comments be forwarded to Member Services.

3.3 In depth work 'a review' is usually undertaken by the Committee, however it may also be carried out by informal cross party member working groups called "Commissions" to contribute to and inform the Overview and Scrutiny process.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The in-depth review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' has progressed as per the timetable contained in its Project Plan.

4.2 The review is now nearing conclusion and as set down in its Project Plan the draft final report and recommendations is scheduled to be considered by the Committee at its meeting in October 2016. An interim report on the work undertaken in 2015/16 is being considered at this meeting.

4.3 The Member Development Commission has continued its work during 2015/16 and the Committee has been kept informed of its work through the notes from its meetings.

- 4.4 The 'Public Involvement at Meetings Working Group' has continued its work during 2015/16. This is now scheduled to continue in 2016/17 following extension of its Terms of Reference.
- 4.5 The Committee continues to consider items at the request of a Member and its work programme also includes consideration of items referred to it at the request of a Member from the Members' Update.
- 4.5 The Committee continues to consider items as part of its performance management role, including the Annual Reports from West Lancashire Community Leisure/Serco and BT Lancashire Services.
- 4.6 The Committee also acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and as part of that role is considering a presentation on behalf of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership at this meeting.

5.0 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

- 5.1 If it is agreed that the in-depth review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' be concluded earlier than set down in its Project Plan, the draft final report and recommendations be brought forward for consideration at the Committee's first meeting in 2016/17.
- 5.2 If the action referred to at 5.1 above is confirmed, then it is proposed that the Work Programme Report 2016/17, be considered at the Committee's first meeting in 2016/17, to include a draft timetable to establish that Work Programme, including actions related to the topic selection process.
- 5.2 In considering the future Work Programme of the Committee Members will need to be mindful of its routine work which may limit the scope of a future review and what can be undertaken to ensure that work can be completed within reasonable timescales.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 Enhanced overview and scrutiny arrangements can give a greater level of involvement for non-cabinet members in the decision making process.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are financial and resource implications in respect of officer and member time in dealing with the matters under the Work Programme. There are also limitations to the scope of a future review and number of topics that can be undertaken and these must be contained within existing resources.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The work of the Committee has to be balanced with other priorities in Member Services and dealt with accordingly. Officers will advise the Committee on the

capacity to support the work and will be as helpful as possible in trying to accommodate Members requests.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None.